

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-06

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P 152230Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3916

C O N F I D E N T I A L PANAMA 2875

STADIS-LIMDIS////////////////////////////////////

EO 11652: GDS

TAGU: PFOR, PN, PQ, US

SUBJ: HIGHLIGHTS OF 402ND PRC MEETING, MAY 14

1. TREATY RELATED MATTERS: AMBASSADOR DISTRIBUTED COPIES OF JOINT STATEMENT ON STATUS OF CANAL TREATY NEGOTIATIONS WHICH SECRETARY READ AT OASGA ON MAY 10. HE ALSO NOTED PRESIDENT'S WHITE HOUSE TOAST TO VISITING FONMINS IN WHICH CANAL ISSUE WAS SOLE BILATERAL ISSUE MENTIONED.

2. CONTINGENCY PLAN: GOVENOR SUBMITTED DRAFT OUTLINE FOR A CONTINGENCY PLAN IN EVENT OF ADVERSE TREATY DEVELOPMENTS WHICH PRC HAD REQUESTED AT AN EARLIER MEETING. GOVENOR STATED HE APPROVED FRAMEWORK AND FORMAT OF PROPOSAL BUT HAD QUESTIONS REGARDING SPECIFIC COURSES OF ACTION. AM-BASSADOR SAID IT QUITE CLEAR PRC NOT BEING ASKED TO APPROVE SPECIFIC INTERIM ACTIONS AT THIS TIME BUT TO CONSIDER LIST OF POSSIBLE MEASURES WHICH MIGHT BE IMPLEMENTED AS NECES-SARY. GENERAL ROSSON EXPLAINED HE WAS NOT READY TO INDI-CATE HIS FORMAL APPROVAL OF PAPER AND SUGGESTED BRIEFING BY WORKING GROUP WHICH HAD PREPARED OUTLINE. AFTER DISCUSSION OF CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK OF OUTLINE, PRC DECIDED TO INSTRUCT WORKING GROUP TO EXPAND OUTLINE AND PREPARE PRESENTATION AT JUNE 11 PRC MEETING. TARGET FOR FINAL PRC APPROVAL OF CONTINGENCY PLAN IS JUNE 25.

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3. AMBASSADOR BUNKER LETTER: GOVENOR REPORTED REACTION IN CANAL ZONE TO NEGOTIATOR'S LETTER HAD BEEN FAVORABLE AND THAT NO ADVERSE REACTION HAD BEEN NOTED IN REPUBLIC. GOVENOR WILL THANK AMBASSADOR IN HIS REPLY, WHICH INCLUDES PRESS CLIPPINGS AND COMMENTARY.

4. SENATE RESOLUTION 97: GOVENOR REPORTED OMB HAD SENT HIM ROUTINE REQUEST TO COMMENT ON SENATE RESOLUTION 97. HE WILL RESPOND THAT STATE DEPARTMENT IS APPROPRIATE AGENCY TO CONVEY VIEWS ON NEW CANAL TREATY.

5. SQUATTERS: CINC GAVE STATUS REPORT OF GUARDIA NACIONAL (GN) EFFORTS TO REMOVE SQUATTERS FROM CANAL ZONE. CINC STATED FINAL STAGE OF RELOCATION WILL COMMENCE MAY 17 AND GN PREPARED TO USE FORCE TO EFFECT SQUATTERS REMOVAL. HE EXPRESSED GRATIFICATION WITH GN ACTIONS.

6. EMERGENCY EVACUATION PLANS: CINC REPORTED ARRIVAL OF HIGH LEVEL TEAM FROM READINESS COMMAND TO REVIEW SOUTHCOM OPERATIONS PLANS, WITH PARTICULAR REGARD TO FORCE AUGMENTATION ASPECTS IN EVENT OF EMERGENCY REQUIREMENTS. CINC EXPRESSED OPINION THAT POSSIBILITY OF HAVING TO CARRY OUT A LARGE-SCALE EVACUATION WOULD HAVE TO BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION ALONG WITH FORCE AUGMENTATION PLANS.

7. FUTURE OF SOUTHCOM: ASKING THAT INFO HE HELD CLOSELY, CINC SAID THAT DECISION HAD BEEN TAKEN NOT TO DIS-ESTABLISH SOUTHERN COMMAND. HOWEVER, UPON HIS RETIREMENT (PROBABLY IN JULY) HE WILL BE REPLACED BY THREE-STAR CINC AND THE THREE COMPONENT COMMAND HEAD-QUARTERS MAY BE REORGANIZED, POSSIBLY CO-LOCATING THEM IN ONE BUILDING. CINC SAID IMPLEMENTATION PLANS ARE STILL BEING FORMULATED.

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